THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan towers are designed for specific purpose of hoisting TV antennae. Requests from outside agencies for utilisation of DD towers has to be examined on a case by case basis vis-a-vis capacity of particular tower.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Recommendations made by Geeta Krishnan Panel for closure of Media units

68. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any recommendation from Expenditure Reforms Commission headed by Mr. K.P. Geeta Krishnan to close down several media units of the Department like Films Division, National Film Archives of India, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the Ministry's response to the recommendations made by Geeta Krishnan Panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No such recommendation has been received as yet.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Persons Residing at Old Compound, Mandi House without rent

†69. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the employees of Doordarshan have been residing at Old Compound, Mandi House, the property of Doordarshan and AIR for the last fifteen to twenty years without paying any rent;

(b) what are the reasons for providing electricity and water by the Doordarshan office in an illegal way; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Department would recover the house rent from these persons for the last fifteen or twenty years; if so, when, if not, the reasons for not recovering house rent from such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that no such facility is being provided by Doordarshan.

(c) Doordarshan has already stopped the payment of House Rent Allowance to the officials concerned.

Telecasting news programmes on Doordarshan

70. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of time for telecasting news and news related programmes on DD-7, the Bengali Satellite Channel;

(b) the breakup of time of programmes produced by Doordarshan-in house and by private producers;

(c) the details of the privately produced programmes;

(d) the capacity utilization of the manpower under Calcutta Doordarshan for such News programmes; and

(e) the rationale for refusing the State Government the right to run regional channels while news programmes are being contracted out to private producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that news and news related programmes are telecast from DD-7 Channel, Calcutta for a duration of 155 minutes daily.

(b) The break-up of all programmes is as under:—

(i) In house-505 mts. daily inclusive of News and Current Affairs programmes.

(ii) Private producers—850 mts. Per day (including repeat telecasts after midnight during the 24 hours transmission.)